

COLUMBARIUM & GARDEN

Amidst colorful seasonal flowers and evergreen shrubs and plants, Ascension's Columbarium provides parishioners with a caring place for the remains of loved ones. The Columbarium and its beautiful gardens are part of Ascension's courtyard – the venue for many parish gatherings and services, as well as the setting for the laughter and energy of young parishioners and the contemplations and reflections of older parishioners.

Dedicated in 2002, Ascension's Columbarium presently contains 160 niches for interment. A non-profit function of Ascension, the Columbarium is managed and administered by a Columbarium Committee with provisions for permanent care and oversight. The Columbarium is funded through the church budget, sale of niches and gifts.

Current and former parishioners may purchase niches for themselves or their immediate family. Each purchaser has the option of selecting the exact location of his or her niche among the various areas of the garden.

As a member of Church of the Ascension, where the benefits of fellowship and the connectedness of spirituality have framed our parish family, you have the unique opportunity to perpetually retain this sense of community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does “columbarium” mean?

Columbarium is an arrangement of niches or compartments for urns containing ashes of the dead. The word “columbarium” derives from the Latin word columbaria which originally was the name for dovecotes – a structure for keeping doves. How this word evolved into its present meaning traces its roots to the Roman persecution of Christians. These early Christians were forced to use catacombs to meet and worship. After a time, special places were set aside and blessed for the dead. Since they resembled dovecotes, these interment structures were called columbaria.

Why choose a niche?

Choosing a columbarium niche offers a meaningful and lasting way to honor a loved one whose remains have been processed through cremation or a green burial. Many people choose cremation or human composting because these options are environmentally friendly, cost-effective, and allow for meaningful, flexible ways to honor a loved one's memory. A niche provides a sacred, peaceful place for remembrance—where family and friends can visit, reflect, and celebrate a life well lived. Placing the remains in a columbarium ensures they are held with dignity in a shared space of faith, beauty, and enduring connection.

Why should I buy a niche now?

Through pre-need planning, you can ease a burden for your loved ones. Here are three recommended steps you can follow: 1) communicate and record in writing your wishes; 2) prearrange your preferences for services and disposition, including purchasing a niche and selecting its location; and 3) designate someone to handle the arrangements.

For whom can I purchase a niche?

Current and former Ascension parishioners may purchase a niche for themselves or their family members. Only cremated or human compost remains may be interred at Ascension's Columbarium. The Columbarium Committee reserves the right to review any applications for a niche to see if eligible.

What is the cost?

As of October 2025, the fee is one thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$1,700) for a single-urn niche and two thousand, three hundred dollars (\$2,300) for a two-urn niche. An additional fee will be applied at the time of engraving for the lettering on the face of the niche. Costs for cremation/composting, purchase of an urn, inscription, and clergy honorarium are not included.





*Let us pray.
Deliver your servants,
O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all
evil, and set them free from every
bond; that they may rest with
all your saints in the eternal
habitations; where with the
Father and the Holy Spirit you live
and reign, one God, for
ever and ever. Amen.*

Prayer from the Ministration
at the Time of Death
The Book of Common Prayer,
(p. 464)



CONTACT INFORMATION

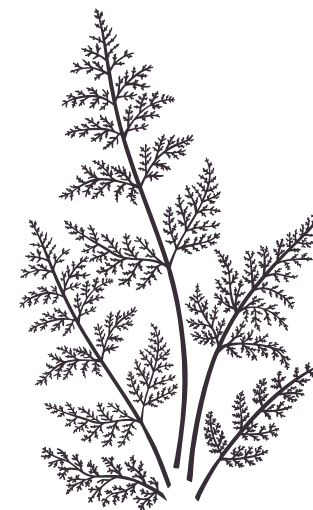
To purchase a niche or to learn
more about the Ascension
Columbarium, please contact
the Parish Administrator at
Ascension:

 206-283-3967
 office@ascensionseattle.org

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ASCENSION COLUMBARIUM & GARDEN



In the courtyard of the Episcopal
Church of the Ascension